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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Living Conditions in Honan Province

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE

DATE OF INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 19 Mar 54

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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a month before coming to Hongkong. has become a desolate rural community. People are not seen on the streets. There is no business. Many of the houses are empty. The farmers are in a desperate situation. They simply cannot make a living on the one and one-half acres of land given to them. Not one family has enough to eat. Many of the farmers have left their villages and have gone to the urban areas, trying to get employment. But, many of the people in the cities are unemployed. For example, the is considered one of the best places to work. Now nobody except such as have relatives among the officials, with letters of introductions from higher authority, are accepted at this factory for work. The factory works one month and is closed the next. Many of the laborers are worried for the lack of grain in their country. Moreover, there is the phenomenon of a greater number of women than men. The total number of people being killed everywhere is unbelievable.

"In the village of Honan Province, there were more than 110 families living there. More than 60 families were executed by the Communists. 20 other families have starved to death in prison. Everywhere, the wealthy as well as the poor are in the peril of starvation.

"Terror is common everywhere. When old acquaintances meet on the street, they speak little, for each is suspicious of the other. No one dares to trust another and that applies to the closest of families also."

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